



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Testimony of State Representative Auden Grogins, 129th District
General Law Committee Public Hearing
February 7, 2013

Proposed H.B. HB 5610 and HB 6096:
An Act Concerning the Creation and the Issuance of Temporary Ice Cream Vendor Permits

Chairman Baram, Chairman Doyle, and distinguished members of the General Law Committee, I am here to testify today in support of House Bill 5610 and HB 6096.

First of all let me say thank you for holding this public hearing and giving me the opportunity to testify on this legislation here today.

I have proposed this legislation, due to an issue raised by a constituent concerning a glitch in the permitting process for soft-serve ice cream vendors. This bill would require the creation of a limited soft-serve ice cream vendor permit for events that are less than seven days in duration. It would also require the issuance of a temporary ice cream vendor permit, which would be issued not more than five days after the submission of the application, enabling Ice Cream vendors to hire summer help expeditiously.

My constituent, William Giannos of Bridgeport, owner of the Mister Softee of Connecticut Ice Cream Franchise will testify on this issue later today. He reported to me that when he provides ice cream at special events that are limited in duration or when he hires temporary summer help to drive his ice cream trucks, the permit required by the state and local public health departments can take more than 30 days. Because of the limited duration of these circumstances, it is very difficult for him to get permits in time before these events take place or before the summer is over. This legislation would help expedite the permit process and aid soft serve ice cream vendors in hiring summer help and creating more jobs, which is something Connecticut legislators should want to promote.

I am also told that presently all soft serve ice cream trucks are already inspected by the State Department of Consumer Protection. Mr. Giannos reports that he has spoken with the Department of Consumer Protection and they seem to agree that the state permit he already obtained should cover him anywhere in the state. It has also been pointed out that those vendors who sell packaged ice cream (like Good Humor) only have to get one permit with the Department of Public Health. In addition, Ice Cream Manufacturing Plants only need to only be licensed with the Department of Consumer Protection. The only difference in this circumstance is that this particular company is selling their Ice Cream from a truck.

I believe that with all of the technology we have today and with the capability of processing permits electronically that we can make streamlining and expediting this permit process work. We can accomplish this through the issuance of a newly created temporary permit or by just requiring one permit through the Department of Consumer Protection, which covers these types of businesses statewide.

In closing, I thank you for your indulgence and your consideration of this legislation and would be more than glad to answer any questions committee members may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Auden Grogins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Auden" being more prominent than the last name "Grogins".

Auden Grogins
129th District